Northeast Metro Tech students win award for Build-A-Bureau

October 2, 2024 . 1:00 PM — 3 min read

A student in the junior carpentry class at Northeast Metro Tech works on a bureau. COURTESY PHOTO/NORTHEAST METRO TECH

The following was submitted by Northeast Metro Tech:

The junior carpentry class at Northeast Metro Tech won an Apex best PR Campaigns, Programs and Plans for Build-a-Bureau.

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Build-a-Bureau is a pilot program funded by Camber Development and Dacon's Designed with Dignity philanthropy in which 32 students are constructing three-drawer bureaus for shelter children transitioning into apartments.

The junior carpentry class at Northeast Metro Tech won an Apex Award for best PR Campaigns, Programs and Plans for Build-a-Bureau. COURTESY PHOTO/NORTHEAST METRO TECH

This grant was given to mark the commencement of 800 Salem, a 238,000 SF fully electric flex warehouse facility in Wilmington.

Massachusetts has the third highest rate of homeless families after New York and California due to economic decline and the right-to-shelter law. Currently 7,268 families are enrolled in the Commonwealth's shelter system. Often children keep their clothes in trash bags, one of the dehumanizing aspects of furniture poverty. These bureaus represent permanency and for many it is their first new piece of furniture.

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The furniture is being distributed by Mission of Deeds, a turnaround organization where sheltered families can shop for household goods for free. Last year, 45% of their clients were children, many victims of domestic violence. They are currently aiding 10 children a week.

One of the built bureaus in the Build-A-Bureau contest. COURTESY PHOTO/NORTHEAST METRO TECH

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The Apex Awards is a national competition for communications p
in which 1,100 entries were evaluated across 13 categories. Ninety-three PR

initiatives were submitted for Campaigns, Programs and Plans. 'Build-a-Bureau: Harvesting Vocational Talent to Help Sheltered Children' was one of 12 programs nationwide given a Grand Award for this category. It was the only program submitted run by high school students. They were surprised with a ceremony marked by certificates and a breakfast made by the culinary class. For some students, this was the first award they have ever won.

Northeast Metro Tech is a spirited school of 1,250 students from 12 communities north of Boston, including Winchester, that are educated in 17 career areas. The school receives over 1,500 applications yearly, of which 360 are selected based on performance. This is their first furniture program.

The junior carpentry class at Northeast Metro Tech celebrates their Apex Award with breakfast made by culinary students. COURTESY PHOTO/NORTHEAST METRO TECH

Chief Communications Officer at Dacon Lauren Nowicki notes, "Vocational schools are an excellent source for talent and leadership training. students demonstrate how teenagers can actively contribute to solving

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societal problems. We thank our friends at Camber Development and Mission of Deeds for this group effort to aid underserved children."

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Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

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NEWS

Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER
March 4, 2026

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FEATURES

‘Chicago: Teen Edition’ dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
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EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents ‘Syldason: You Are Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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